

memorandum

DATE: January 29, 2003

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: Office of Environmental Policy and Guidance:Koss:6-7964

SUBJECT: Proposed Clean Air Act Rule on the Listing of Substitutes for Ozone-Depleting Substances in the Fire Protection Sector, for Review and Comment

TO: Distribution

On January 27, 2003, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed the listing of three substitutes for ozone-depleting substances (ODS) in the fire protection and explosion protection sector as acceptable (but subject to certain use limits), under EPA's Significant New Alternatives Policy (SNAP) program. SNAP implements Section 612 of the Clean Air Act, as amended in 1990, which requires EPA to evaluate substitutes for ODS to reduce overall risk to human health and the environment. The proposed rulemaking has been posted at the Office of Environmental Policy and Guidance (EH-41) Web Site at <http://www.eh.doe.gov/oepa/rules/68/68fr4012.pdf>.

In a separate action, EPA issued a companion direct final rule on the acceptability of these three halon substitutes, because EPA views this action as a noncontroversial revision and anticipates no adverse comments. The direct final rule goes into effect on March 28, 2003, unless EPA receives adverse comments. If EPA receives adverse comments on its proposal, the Agency will withdraw the direct final rule, and evaluate the comments prior to taking new, final action. The direct final rule (at <http://www.eh.doe.gov/oepa/rules/68/68fr4004.pdf>) provides greater detail on the halon substitutes than the proposed rule.

The three acceptable substitutes are:

- Hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) 227-BC, which is acceptable, subject to use conditions, as a halon 1301 substitute for industrial fire and explosion suppression systems in occupied and unoccupied areas.
- C6-perfluoroketone, which is acceptable, subject to narrow use limits (*i.e.*, only in nonresidential applications), as a halon 1211 substitute for streaming agent uses.
- H Galden Hydrofluoropolyethers (HFPEs), which is acceptable, subject to narrow use limits (*i.e.*, only in nonresidential applications), as a halon 1211 substitute for streaming agent uses.

Please review the proposed rule and submit any comments you may have to Ted Koss of my staff (e-mail: <theodore.koss@eh.doe.gov>; telephone: 202-586-7964) by February 12, 2003. Questions concerning this rulemaking should be directed to Mr. Koss.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andy Lawrence". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Andy Lawrence
Director
Office of Environmental Policy and Guidance